



The Opinion Wall

by Gilesin Nemutlu

On the last day of the 1st European conference on the history of youth work and youth policy, we were invited to comment on the key statements that had shaped the discussions throughout the conference.

The statements were presented on a large 'Opinion Wall'. Papers and pens were provided and there was a clear invitation to write and stick comments on the wall – the method chosen was pretty much similar to what is usually called the 'Silent Floor Discussion'. Except for the silence!

Have a look at the statements. What is your opinion? Agree? Disagree? Why? Why not? Do you think the statements are relevant to the discussion of the history and the development of youth work? Do you think they are relevant for youth work policy today in your context?

Feel free to create your own Opinion Wall and invite your youth worker colleagues, participants, policy makers and researchers to put an opinion on it. The exercise is not to just place and leave 'another brick in the wall' but to let ideas happen and shape the future of youth work through discussions. Following the motto of the conference, 'No future without a past' – let's do something today!



LAWS
Laws are there to make things possible, not to act as restrictions.

Does youth work need to be addressed to only working with girls, or is it both boys and girls?

The brains of adolescents are asking for youth work.

Youth work is control and emancipation.

CORE BUSINESS
The core business of youth work is not to reduce teen pregnancies, but to help adolescents make conscious decisions.

Is youth information something of the past?

MOBILITY
Mobility is too much for the middle class.

Statements on the



Social inclusion cannot be restricted to the individual level.
SOCIAL INCLUSION

Organisational professionalisation is undermining occupational professionalism.

By looking to the needs of the past, the needs of young people today are sometimes forgotten.
YOUNG PEOPLE

Just because you are on the streets, doesn't make you a detached youth worker.
YOUTH WORKER

There are no better experts on youth than youth themselves.

There is no such thing as the good society.

Youth work is more than being young together.
TOGETHER

Youth research should be a resource for youth work.
RESEARCH

Youth work is a place where young people can find resources.

Youth work needs to make alliances with other social professions for social and political change.
ALLIANCES

The task of youth work is to connect young people to other young people.
CONNECT

Are European youth platforms forerunners or after-runners?
EUROPEAN